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Eileen Sheffield

Signature

Date

CERA 238 (10201695))

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Schreiner

Serial No. : 10/076,227

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For : MULTILAYER ACTUATOR WITH CONTACT SURFACES OF
INTERNAL ELECTRODES OF THE SAME POLARITY
ARRANGED OFFSET FOR THEIR EXTERNAL ELECTRODES

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 26, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-19, without prejudice and add the following new claims:

20. A piezoceramic multilayer actuator comprising alternating internal electrodes led to the surface of the actuator and inactive regions assigned to them, the internal electrodes of the same polarity being connected by their contact surfaces to form a parallel circuit to corresponding external electrodes, said external electrodes being arranged on opposing sides of the actuator, wherein contact surfaces, and therefore the inactive regions assigned to them of one or a predetermined number of internal electrodes of the same polarity, arranged above one another in the same direction, are arranged offset to the another by a predetermined angle of the value α